

permitting the player to access the account;  
transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device;  
permitting the player to wager the promotional credit; and  
preventing the promotional credit from being cashed out by the player.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein said promotional credit comprises a bonus credit.

30. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein said method further comprises preventing transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device beyond a predetermined time period.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein said method further comprises entering an end time in the player's account and preventing transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device after the end time.

32. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein said method further comprises entering a start time in the player's account and preventing transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device before the start time.

33. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein said method further comprises paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account comprises applying credit to a credit meter in the gaming device.

35. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account comprises paying coins from the gaming device to the player.

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36. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account comprises hand paying the jackpot.

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37. (New) A method for providing incentive to play gaming devices connected by a network to a host computer comprising:  
creating a player account accessible by the host computer;  
applying a promotional credit to the player account;  
providing access to the account responsive to a command initiated by a player at one of the gaming devices;  
transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device;  
permitting the player to wager the promotional credit; and  
preventing the promotional credit from being cashed out by the player.

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38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein said promotional credit comprises a bonus credit.

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39. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein said method further comprises preventing transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device beyond a predetermined time period.

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40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein said method further comprises entering an end time in the player's account and preventing transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device after the end time.

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41. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein said method further comprises entering a start time in the player's account and preventing transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device before the start time.

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~~42~~ (New) The method of claim ~~37~~<sup>10</sup> wherein said method further comprises paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account.

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~~43~~ (New) The method of claim ~~42~~<sup>15</sup> wherein paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account comprises applying credit to a credit meter in the gaming device.

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~~44~~ (New) The method of claim ~~42~~<sup>15</sup> wherein paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account comprises paying coins from the gaming device to the player.

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~~45~~ (New) The method of claim ~~42~~<sup>15</sup> wherein paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account comprises hand paying the jackpot.

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~~46~~ (New) A method for providing incentive to play gaming devices connected by a network to a host computer comprising:

- creating a player account accessible by the host computer;
- applying a promotional credit to the player account;
- transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device responsive to a command initiated by a player at one of the gaming devices;
- permitting the player to wager the promotional credit; and
- preventing the promotional credit from being cashed out by the player.

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~~47~~ (New) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>19</sup> wherein said promotional credit comprises a bonus credit.

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~~48~~ (New) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>19</sup> wherein said method further comprises preventing transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device beyond a predetermined time period.

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49. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~ 48 wherein said method further comprises entering an end time in the player's account and preventing transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device after the end time.

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50. (New) The method of claim ~~19~~ 46 wherein said method further comprises entering a start time in the player's account and preventing transferring promotional credit in the account to the gaming device before the start time.

~~24~~  
51. (New) The method of claim ~~19~~ 46 wherein said method further comprises paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account.

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52. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~ 51 wherein paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account comprises applying credit to a credit meter in the gaming device.

~~26~~  
53. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~ 51 wherein paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account comprises paying coins from the gaming device to the player.

~~27~~  
54. (New) The method of claim ~~24~~ 51 wherein paying the player any jackpots won as a result of gaming device play utilizing promotional credit from the player account comprises hand paying the jackpot.